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COUNTRY: Columbia

SUBJECT: Progress Report on Western Trunk Highway

DATE 7 Jul 53

PLACE ACQUIRED: - - - - -

SUPPLEMENT TO:

DATE ACQUIRED: 25X1A6a

RESPONSIVE TO:

DATE OF INFO: Jun 53

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1. Paving operations on Sector 1 have been temporarily suspended because of the frequency of wet subgrade, aggregate and danger of a quick storm during the laying operation. The blacktop, at the time the operation stopped, is complete from kilometer 60 in to Barranquilla. Base prime has been continued as the weather permits to protect as much as possible the base course. Grass cover protection in the new ditches is growing quickly in the warm humid climate. With the completion of the adjustments on the new ferry at Gambote, the supervision of its operation have been taken over on a 24-hour basis. All other work in the next 175 kilometers south has been maintenance. Beyond that, in Sectors 4 and 5, the heavy grading has been making exception progress for this season of the year. In the month of May 163,000 cubic meters of dirt were moved, 450 meters of culverts were installed, and abutment excavation work done for the bridges over the Rio Man, San Jorge and Zambos. Heavy rains did considerable damage to the work already completed on the Man and San Jorge. Forty-five thousand cubic meters of mineral aggregate were placed in strategic areas of the road in the base course operation, as well as a great increase in the maintenance operation.

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